

MEETING ON CLEANING AND DREDGING THE JORDAN RIVER

OCTOBER 29, 1962- CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS



Commissioner W. G. (Bill) Larson, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. He stressed the importance of a program to dredge, clean and reshape the Jordan River. He asked Mr. Ray H. Leavitt to read the letter he had written the Commission recommending the steps to be taken concerning the Jordan River Project.

Mr. Leavitt read the letter which included the following proposals:

- (1) That the program be coordinated by the Board of County Commissioners with the closest cooperation, advice and counsel of the County Surveyor and County Attorney.
- (2) That the cleaning work that is being done on the River be accelerated to the fullest extent that you believe in line with good public policy because everyone agrees that the health and well-being of every man, woman and child in this area is dependent upon the free flow of water through this channel to avoid the standing pools of stagnant water that creates mosquito breeding grounds and other health hazards.
- (3) That a Citizens Committee be appointed to initiate a comprehensive program for the over-all long range cleaning and dredging of the River. The chairman of the Citizens Committee should be a member of the over-all Citizens Committee on Storm Drainage Problems.
- (4) That the necessary engineering be done on the River to produce a cross-section indicating the ultimate depth and width required to carry not only the present run-off but to also carry the run-off when the master storm sewer program is completed. That arrangements be made to eliminate the Bonneville Dam in Davis County to avoid the water from backing up and giving the River a chance to scour itself.
- (5) That the Citizens Committee be asked to mobilize the support and service of all interested agencies including the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Salt Lake City Engineer and Attorney, the appropriate State agencies including the Attorney General, State Department of Highways and the Department of Fish and Game, the elected officials of Davis County and the private interests that are involved along the River in support of this program.
- (6) It is believed that this is one of the most difficult assignments that has been encountered by a local political subdivision and it will require one-hundred per cent support of not only the business groups and the news media but of every citizen.

(6) Continued:

We commend the Board of County Commissioners and in particular Commission Chairman W. G. (Bill) Larson, for the foresight in seeing this problem and for having the courage to initiate the program.

Mr. Leavitt stated that calls supporting the Jordan River program had been received from Ralph Anderson in Legislative District #11, Richard Evans from Legislative Dist. #13 and Tim Monroe from Legislative District #15.

Commissioner Larson stated that one of the major problems confronting the County is where the responsibility lies with reference to the dredging and cleaning of the River. It is agreed that to straighten, widen and clean the River and to maintain a road to do the job is necessary. He assured everyone that the County Commission is ready to do their share and work will continue on the emergency operation that is in force at the present.

Mr. Roscoe Boden, County Surveyor stressed the importance of the need for this much needed program. He introduced Mr. A. H. Sorenson of Caldwell, Richards and Sorenson Sewer Engineers, who presented data and maps showing various locations of the River and meanderings of the River in its old channel. He stated that west of the State Fairgrounds some River straightening has been done. He said we should be prepared to handle the potential amount of water the Jordan will have to carry in future years as the County builds up and grows.

A study of the Millcreek and Cottonwood areas to determine the type of drainage facility and size and location of underground conduit to carry the water should be made, Mr. Sorenson stated.

Mr. Gus P. Backman stated that we have a definite emergency especially from 2100 South to the North City limits where the River is very flat and filled with debris. He stated that the Eighth South storm sewer will be dumping into the River and with the Spring run-off it will bring catastrophe to the Rose Park area. He asserted that something must be done and will have to be done in two separate undertakings. First, the people along the River and those that will be affected by the run-off should be protected; and then the over-all comprehensive program will take care of the future.

Commissioner Larson said the immediate problem facing the Commission is cleaning and dredging of the River before the Spring run-off.

Mr. A. H. Sorenson took the floor once more and stated that the River must be straightened and widened and repetition should be eliminated. Ground should be acquired for the program and plans for recreational and park facilities should be included in the long range program. He said it was important to get the public behind the move and get their support.

Mr. Alan E. Brockbank stated that many years of work and much time has been spent to straighten the River from Ninth North to the golf course. He mentioned that lack of cooperation by the people along the River is one of the greatest problems.

Mr. Brockbank further stated that someone has got to authorize the County Commission to buy right-of-way across properties along the Jordan River and when that authority is granted the people should support the Commission in getting the job done.

Commissioner C. W. (Buck) Brady made a motion that Mr. Leavitt's letter be accepted in its entirety and that the Advisory Committee, as stated in paragraph five of the letter, be appointed by the Commission as members to serve along with Caldwell, Richards and Sorenson, to begin working on the River project. He further made a motion that more members would be appointed to serve in an advisory capacity as they are needed.

Commissioner Edwin Q. Cannon seconded the motions.

In conclusion comments from the floor came from :

Mr. Peter R. Birrell, Sr. recalled past years of recreational activity around the River area but stated that now the River is an eyesore and filled with debris. He said immediate action should be taken to do something about the River.

Mr. John C. Conder, Utah Power and Light Co., suggested bulletins should be printed and passed on to the people showing the threat of the Spring run-off and necessity for a program that would benefit all the people of the community. He suggested that news media be used to make the people aware of the situation.

Mr. Leavitt stated that Davis and Salt Lake Counties are joining in this project - as both counties realize that the River is a threat and measures must be taken to protect the people.

Mr. McGregor of the Corps of Engineers- U. S. Army- said the Corps can do only what local agencies assign them to do, and that the right of entry is one of the biggest problems facing an undertaking of this kind. He stated that many times condemnation proceedings must be instituted. He also stated that maintenance is a problem. He suggested that if the services of the Corps was requested a formal request must be made to the District Engineer.

Mr. Nick E. Papanikolas stated that due to industrial growth and change in the North end of the County an emergency already exists and work should be commenced now so dumping of water will not cause flooding.

County Attorney Grover A. Giles stated that the County Attorney's Office must know the course that is going to be taken and the sooner it is known the better off the people and the community will be.

A motion was made to adjourn, and the motion was seconded at 12:20 p.m.

# ATTENDANCE SHEET

Commissioner W. G. Larson, Chairman,	Salt Lake Co. Commission
Commissioner C. W. Brady	Salt Lake Co. Commission
Edwin Q. Cannon, Commissioner-	Salt Lake Co. Commission
Commissioner Joe L. Christensen	Salt Lake City Commission
Herbert F. Smart, Commissioner	Salt Lake City Commission
Eugene Tolman, Chairman	Davis County Commission
G. Evan Taylor, Commissioner	Davis County Commission
Wayne M. Winegar, Commissioner	Davis County Commission
Grover A. Giles, Attorney	Salt Lake County
Ray H. Leavitt	Salt Lake County
Roy W. McLeese	City Engineer
Harold Crane	Fish and Game Dept.
Gus P. Backman	Exec. Sec. - City Chamber of Commerce
Roscoe Boden,	Salt Lake County Surveyor
Ernest Robertson	County Surveyor's Office
J. C. Frost	County Surveyor's Office
Alton H. Sorensen, Jr.	Caldwell, Richards and Sorenson Sewer Engrs.
A. H. Sorensen	Caldwell, Richards & Sorenson Sewer Engrs.
Bud Phelps	Fish and Game Dept.
Robert B. Porter	Fish and Game Dept.
Donald A. Smith	Fish & Game Dept.
J. E. "Doc" Johnson	
Kenneth B. Done	Exec. Sec. - Home Bldrs. of Greater Salt Lake
Don Norseth	Utah State Engrs. Office
Doug Stewart	Sumner G. Margetts Co. - Engrs.
Elmer J. Taylor	Utah Power & Light Co.
Guy S. Anderson	Jordan Fur & Reclamation Co.
John C. Conder	Utah Power & Light Co.
Nick E. Papanikolas	Papanikolas Brothers
Lue Bettilyon	Bettilyon's
Howard M. Hurst	Utah State Dept. of Health
Woolas A. Macey	Pollution Control Board
H. D. Turner	State Fair Manager
Alan E. Brockbank	County Board of Health
Davis Watkins	Alan E. Brockbank Offices
Ansel H. Pratt	Mountain Fuel Supply Co.
Woneighta Tippetts	Mountain States Telephone Co.
Wilbur C. Parkinson	2400 No. 1800 West
Peter R. Birrell, Sr.	Chief Sanitarian, City Health Dept.
Russ Turner	Birrell Bottling Co.
Al Cardwell	Salt Lake City Health Dept.
Douglas H. Brammer	Salt Lake City Health Dept.
F. W. McGregor	Engineer
	Corps. of Engineers - U. S. Army